

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7073

BILL NUMBER: HB 1344

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2015

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Veterans' Issues.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Macer

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the county executive of Marion County to employ a county service officer. The bill changes the definition of "qualified service member" for purposes of the Military Family Relief Fund law to mean an individual who: (1) is: (A) an Indiana resident; (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard; and (C) serving on active duty during a time of national conflict or war; or (2) who: (A) is an Indiana resident; (B) served in the armed forces of the United States, or the National Guard during a time of national conflict or war; and (C) received an honorable discharge from service.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* This bill could increase expenditures from the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) by expanding eligibility for grant assistance from the fund. Increases in MFRF expenditures are indeterminable and will depend on decisions of the Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission.

Additional Information: Currently, only active duty members of the armed forces and the Indiana National Guard (and their dependents) qualify for assistance payments from the MFRF. The bill expands this eligibility to honorably discharged members of the armed forces and the Indiana National Guard who previously served during a time of national conflict or war at any time.

As a result, expenses from the MFRF could increase, but would depend on the determinations of the Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission with regards to making grant assistance awards.

The December 2014 balance of the MFRF was approximately \$3.8 M. The fund receives revenue from license plate sales of the Hoosier Veteran and Support Our Troops license plates. In addition, the Veterans Affairs Trust Fund (VATF) was established to provide a self-sustaining funding source for the MFRF and receives revenue from the sale of the Prisoner of War/Missing In Action license plate. The December 2014 VATF balance was approximately \$8 M.

Information on revenue deposited in each fund from license plate sales is included in the table below.

License Plate	Group Fee Per Plate	2011 Sales	2012 Sales	2013 Sales	Revenue	Fund Affected
Hoosier Veteran	\$15	54,185	62,086	63,842	\$2.4 M	MFRF
Support Our Troops	\$20	26,904	24,002	20,229	\$1.3 M	MFRF
POW/MIA	\$25	2,142	2,980	3,232	\$0.25 M	VATF

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill will increase Marion County expenditures to hire a county veteran service office (CVSO). Currently, Marion County's CVSO position is vacant. Increases in expenditures will depend on the salary negotiated between a newly hired CVSO and the county government.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Russ Eaglin, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs; BMV license plate sales data.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.